



Contacts on Iriomote Island

English correspondence is not always available



If you find an injured or dead Iriomote cat

Ministry of the Environment's
Iriomote Cat emergency dial

TEL. 0980-85-5581 [24/7 service]

Please contact us
also in the event
of an accident.

If you find an injured
rare wildlife

Iriomote Wildlife
Conservation Center,
Ministry of the Environment

TEL. 0980-85-5581

For inquiries on
Iriomote Island Nature Guides

Iriomote Island
Ecotourism Association
TEL. 0980-85-6331

Iriomote Foundation
TEL. 0980-84-7011

Police

110

Ambulance

119

Tourism of Iriomote Island

Taketomi Town
Tourism Association
TEL. 0980-82-5445

Taketomi Town
Nature Conservation and
Tourism Policy Division
TEL. 0980-83-1306

To all visitors to Iriomote Island

Five things to keep in mind on the island

Issuing Organization and Contact for Inquiries

Taketomi Town Nature Conservation and Tourism Policy Division
TEL. 0980-83-1306

(Taketomi Town Iriomote Island Ecotourism Promotion Council)

Matane!

Till Next Time

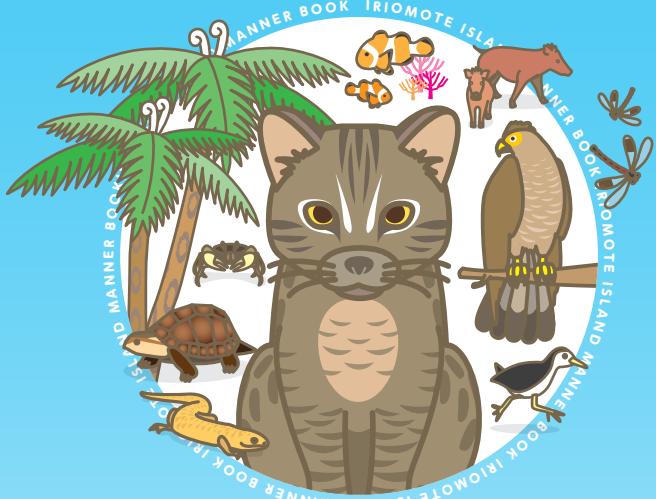
Engaging in responsible tourism will
bring us together!

Taketomi Town "Responsible Tourism"

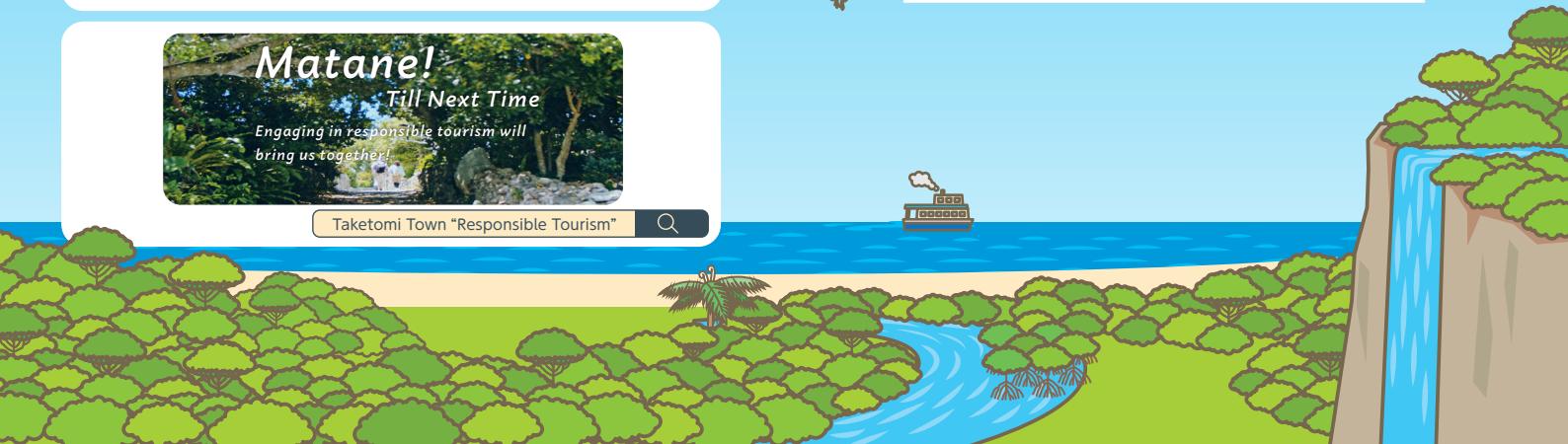


To all visitors to Iriomote Island

Five things to keep in mind on the island



Iriomote Island Manner Book

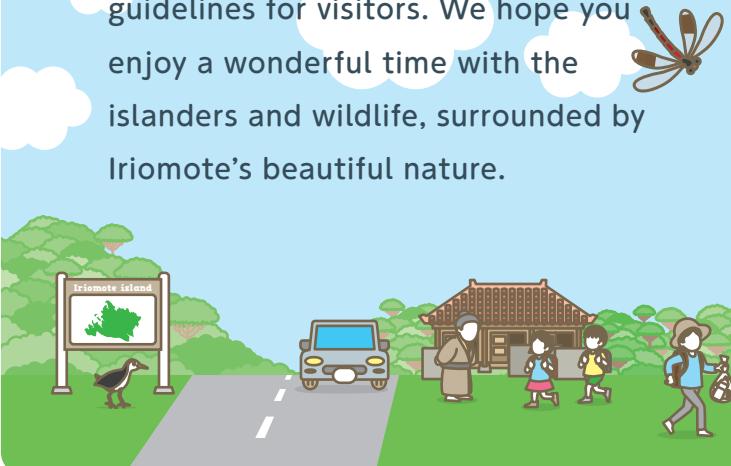


ōritōri

Welcome to

Iriomote Island is the second largest island in Okinawa Prefecture next to the main island of Okinawa, with a perimeter of about 130 km and a population of about 2,400. Also called the last unexplored region in Japan, the island is covered with subtropical forests and mangroves.

Iriomote Island is home to rare wildlife, including the Iriomote cat and crested serpent eagle, both designated as National Natural Monuments. To help protect this rich nature for future generations, we've compiled a list of guidelines for visitors. We hope you enjoy a wonderful time with the islanders and wildlife, surrounded by Iriomote's beautiful nature.



Irumuti!

IRIOMOTE

[contents]

1. Be gentle to island life
2. Be gentle to living things
3. Be gentle to nature
4. Be gentle to other users
5. Take care of yourself

- Related Laws and Regulations
- Map
- Contact Information





1. Be gentle to island life

We islanders wish to give a warm and pleasant welcome to everyone visiting Iriomote Island. For this, we would appreciate it if you could be mindful to our lifestyle and respect our customs and culture.

The island is a place where people live

Do not walk around villages in swimsuits or with your upper body naked.



Respect island customs and culture



Do not enter Utaki (places of worship), graves, private homes, or school grounds.



Many festivals are solemn occasions for prayer. If you wish to observe a festival, please talk to a local and behave in a respectful manner.



That's actually a nuisance!?

Do not use boats, buses, or restaurants while wet or dirty.

Follow traffic rules and take care when stopping or parking your car to avoid obstructing traffic as much as possible.



here are places where unmanned aircraft (drones) cannot be flown.



Check and follow procedures when flying, and do not fly when there are people nearby.





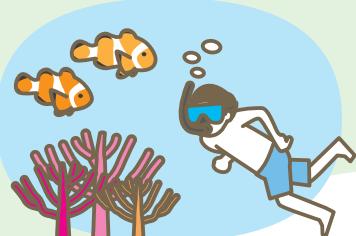
2. Be gentle to living things

Iriomote Island is home to many rare wildlife, notably the Iriomote cat. Please help protect the wildlife so they can thrive on this small island for years to come.

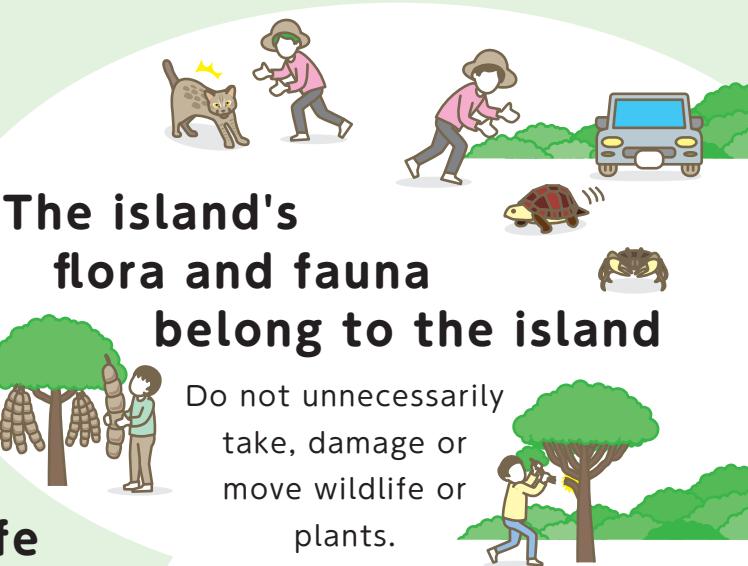
Manners for observing wildlife



Do not feed or stalk wildlife.



When in the ocean, be careful not to damage or step on coral. Also, do not stand on top of corals.



The island's flora and fauna belong to the island

Do not unnecessarily take, damage or move wildlife or plants.

Do not release or discharge animals brought in from outside the island, or plant vegetation or their seeds.

Drive Slowly!

In recent years, traffic accidents involving the Iriomote cat have become more frequent.

Drive at the speed limit of 40 km/h (30 km/h in villages).



Schedule your trip so you will have plenty of time to drive slowly.



3. Be gentle to nature

Iriomote Island's rich nature is delicate, and even small actions can cause harm. Every one of you play a key role in protecting its forests and oceans.

In fields

In fields, trek and stay on designated trails.



Use sunscreen and insect repellents that have minimal impact on the natural environment.

Do not bring pets into the forest, except for assistance dogs. Do not bring cats onto the island.

The field belongs to everyone

Do not camp or start campfires outside of campgrounds.



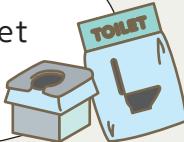
Before entering fields



Don't forget to use the restroom.

Remove mud and seeds from your clothes and shoes before entering the forest.

Bring a portable toilet if possible.



Do not litter and take your garbage home with you.

4. Be gentle to other users

We would appreciate it if you could be mindful to other users so that everyone can pleasantly enjoy the nature of Iriomote Island. Please share the beauty of Iriomote Island with everyone.

Do not disturb other users.

Do not smoke in fields, except in areas where smoking is permitted.

When taking pictures or resting in fields, be careful not to obstruct the passage of others.



5. Take care of yourself

The nature of

Iriomote Island can be harsh. Islanders have lived with its blessings while respecting its power. To enjoy it, be prepared and prioritize safety.

Wait a minute!

Before you enter a field

Be aware of weather warnings and advisories, sudden changes in the weather, and refrain from going to the forest or river when conditions seem dangerous.

Do not go to a field while under the influence of alcohol.

Confirm emergency contact information from pamphlets and be prepared with at least a minimum of first aid supplies.

Wear life jackets and other lifesaving equipment when canoeing, kayaking, stand up paddleboarding, snorkeling, fishing, etc.

When entering forests, use a nature guide (Taketomi Town Nature Tour Operator) as much as possible.

When swimming or snorkeling in the ocean, never swim alone.

Life is important!

If you notice unusual conditions in the forests, rivers, or ocean, make life-saving actions your top priority and immediately secure your safety.

Attention tourists
Iriomote Island has introduced a guide license system

In April 2020, the "Taketomi Town Nature Tour Operator Ordinance" was enacted for Iriomote Island, requiring tour guides in land and river areas to obtain a "Taketomi Town Nature Guide License." This system ensures quality local guides who help protect and sustain the island's precious nature.

Look for this mark

IRIOMOTE NATURE GUIDE

Licensed guides are safe and reliable, meeting various requirements, including "Lifesaver" and "Water Rescuer" certifications! Be sure to check if a guide is licensed for "trekking" and "canoeing" tours. Guides without a designated sticker or guide license are unlicensed guides. Please be careful!

Diving, snorkeling, and fishing in the ocean is not subject to the licensing system, such activities are available without a license.

Check it out when you join a tour!

Is there a designated sticker on the pick-up/drop-off vehicle?



Is there a designated sticker on the canoe or SUP?



Does the guide have a certified guide license?



Contact Information :
Taketomi Town Nature Conservation and Tourism Policy Division 0980-83-1306

Limitations on the number of users begin in March 2025 at five fields on Iriomote Island

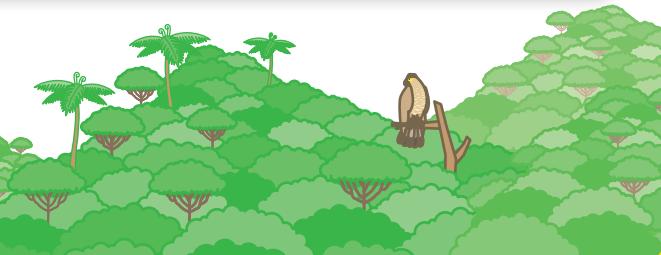
The nature experience system in Iriomote Island will be changed to connect the rich nature where Iriomote cat lives to the future!

Iriomote Island has established various rules for the use of nature experience fields to protect and preserve its precious natural resources for years to come.

Five fields in Iriomote Island, including "Pinaisara Waterfall," which are particularly in need of environmental preservation, are designated as "Specified Natural Tourism Resources" based on the Ecotourism Promotion Law, and the maximum number of visitors allowed per day is set.

To enter these fields for trekking, canoeing, etc., you must apply in advance to Taketomi Town for permission.

►Please see the following pages (p. 14 to 15) for more details.



Please obtain prior permission to enter restricted fields (specified natural tourism resources)!



Please be aware that you may be penalized under the law if you enter the specified natural tourism resources without authorization.

Five specified natural tourism resources and maximum number of visitors per day

The maximum number of visitors per day is set for each specified natural tourism resource.

- Hinai River (Pinaisara Waterfall) **200** persons/day
- Nishida River (Sangara Waterfall) **100** persons/day
- Mt. Komidake **30** persons/day
- Urauchi Riverhead area
(Mayagusuku Waterfall, crossing trail) **50** persons/day
- Mt. Tedou **30** persons/day

Conditions of Entry

At the "Hinai River (Pinaisara Waterfall)" and "Nishida River (Sangara Waterfall)," users must be accompanied by a registered guide, and entry without a guide is not permitted. In other areas, such as "Mt. Komidake," "Urauchi Riverhead," and "Mt. Tedou," all users are required to take a training course in advance if they are not accompanied by a registered guide.

Prior application for entry permission

Application for entry permission can be made from the website of the Taketomi Town Iriomote Island Ecotourism Promotion Council six months prior to the desired date of entry. If a registered guide is going to accompany you, he or she can apply on your behalf.



Pinaisara Waterfall

Mt. Tedou

Mayagusuku Waterfall



Mt. Komidake

Sangara Waterfall

Fees for application for entry permission

A default entry permission administration fee will be charged when applying for entry permission.

- "Hinai River" and "Nishida River" **500** yen/person
- For entry to "Mt. Komidake", "Urauchi Riverhead", and "Mt. Tedou" with a registered guide **500** yen/person
- When taking the course and entering "Mt. Komidake", "Urauchi Riverhead", and "Mt. Tedou" **1000** yen/person

What is a Registered Guide?

Under the "Taketomi Town Nature Tour Operator Ordinance", enforced in April 2020, only "licensed nature guides" approved by the Mayor of Taketomi Town can conduct nature tours on Iriomote Island's land areas.

Starting in March 2025, new entry restrictions will apply under the Specified Natural Tourism Resources System. Only "Registered Guides," who meet certain conditions, will be allowed to guide visitors in five restricted areas.

Both "Nature Guides" and "Registered Guides" must carry their licenses at all times.





Yellow-margined box turtle

Laws and regulations regarding the nature of Iriomote Island

Laws and regulations regarding the nature of Iriomote Island

[Natural Parks Act]

Laws and regulations prohibiting collection and capture of precious wildlife

[Act on the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora]

[Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties]

[Ordinance for the Protection of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in Okinawa Prefecture]

[Natural Environment Conservation Ordinance in Taketomi Town]

Laws and regulations prohibiting bringing of animals from outside the island

[Invasive Alien Species Act]

[Ordinance on Keeping of Cats in Taketomi Town]

Laws and regulations concerning nature tour operation



Iriomote cat
©Iriomote Wildlife Conservation Center

[Taketomi Town Nature Tour Operator Ordinance]

[Overall Concept for Promoting Ecotourism of Iriomote Island]



Crested serpent eagle





Iriomote Island MAP



Public Toilet

Unarizaki Park

Shigosen Monument

Sonai Port

Shirahama Port

Funauki Port

Hoshizuna Beach

Sumiyoshi

Nakano

Uehara

Tsukigahama Beach

Urauchi

Funaura

Hoshitate Nature Conservation Area

Hoshitate

Sonai

Sotobanari Island

Uchibarari Island

Shirahama

Uehara Port

30min. to Uehara Port

Funauki

Nakara River

Hidori River

Kuira River

Speed Limit on Iriomote Island

40 km/h

30 km/h in villages

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30 km/h in villages